

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Original): A method comprising:  
receiving from a first person a request to converse with a second person using any one of two or more selectable communication modes; and  
in response to the received request, automatically performing an action determined by a rule created by the second person.
2. (Original): The method of claim 1 wherein the rule is created by the second person using a user interface on a computing device.
3. (Original): The method of claim 1 further comprising selecting the rule from a set of one or more rules based on a condition statement of the rule.
4. (Original): The method of claim 1 further comprising selecting the rule based on the one of two or more communication modes.
5. (Original): The method of claim 1 further comprising selecting the rule based on an identity of the first person.
6. (Original): The method of claim 1 further comprising selecting the rule based on a current status of the second person.

7. (Original): The method of claim 1 further comprising determining an electronic document associated with the first person and retrieving the electronic document if the second person indicates a desire to view the document.

8. (Original): The method of claim 7 further comprising displaying the electronic document to the second person.

9. (Original): The method of claim 7 further comprising retrieving the electronic document from an e-mail storage module, wherein the electronic document is an e-mail message.

10. (Original): The method of claim 7 further comprising retrieving a calendar of the second person from a calendar storage module, wherein the electronic document is the calendar.

11. (Original): The method of claim 1 wherein automatically performing the action further comprises enabling the first person to leave a message if the current status of the second person is that the second person is unavailable to converse.

12. (Original): The method of claim 1 wherein automatically performing the action further comprises forwarding the request to converse to a third person if a current status of the second person is that the second person is unavailable to converse and the third person is available to converse.

13. (Original): The method of claim 1 wherein the one of two or more communication modes comprises a voice conversation communication mode.

14. (Original): The method of claim 13 wherein the voice conversation communication mode comprises Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP).

15. (Original): The method of claim 1 wherein the one of two or more communication modes comprises a voice/video conversation communication mode.

16. (Original): The method of claim 1 wherein the one of two or more communication modes comprises a graphic text-based conversation communications mode.

17. (Original): The method of claim 16 wherein the graphic text-based conversation communication mode comprises Instant Messaging.

18. (Original): A system comprising:  
a computing device comprising:  
a transceiver configured to receive a request to converse with a user of the computing device; and  
an integration module configured to interact with at least two of voice conversation software, voice-video conversation software, graphic text-based conversation software, fax software, and electronic mail software, and to automatically perform an action determined by a rule created by the user based on the received request.

19. (Original): The system of claim 18 wherein the integration module comprises a microphone and a speaker.

20. (Original): The system of claim 18 wherein the integration module comprises a user interface hook to detect when the user is interacting with the computing device.

21. (Original): The system of claim 18 wherein the integration module comprises a user interface that enables the user to specify the action.

22. (Original): The system of claim 18 further comprising a network.

23. (Original): The system of claim 22 further comprising a second computing device configured to send the request to converse.

24. (Original): The system of claim 22 further comprising a telephone configured to send the request to converse.

25. (Original): The system of claim 22 wherein the network comprises a switched local area network.

26. (Original): The system of claim 25 wherein the transceiver is further configured to receive a request to converse via the switched local area network.

27. (Original): The system of claim 25 wherein the switched local area network is configured to connect the computing device to an internet.

28. (Original): The system of claim 25 wherein the switched local area network is configured to connect the computing device to an intranet.

29. (Original): The system of claim 25 wherein the switched local area network is configured to connect to an internet protocol/public switched telephone network gateway.

30. (Original): The system of claim 29 wherein the network further comprises a second switched local area network.

31. (Original): The system of claim 30 wherein the second computing device sends the request to converse via the second switched local area network.

32. (Original): The system of claim 31 wherein the network further comprises a telephone system and a public switched telephone network configured to enable the telephone to send the request to converse to the computing device.

33. (Original): An article comprising a machine-readable medium that stores executable instruction signals that cause a machine to:

receive, from a first person, a request to converse with a second person using any one of two or more selectable communication modes; and  
in response to the request, automatically perform an action determined by a rule created by the first user.

34-88. (Cancelled)

89. (Original): A system comprising:

a computer device;

a user interface that is configured to enable a user to interact with a person using one of at least two of voice conversation, voice-video conversation, graphic text-based conversation, fax, and electronic mail; wherein the interaction comprises:

creating a rule to cause the computer device to automatically perform an action based on a request to converse with the user;

viewing an automatically generated listing of a set of persons, the listing comprising a name, presence information, and communication modes available for the user to communicate with the person from the set of persons;

selecting the person from the set of persons;

selecting a communication mode from the communication modes available to communicate with the person;

retrieving information about a person using an identifying characteristic of the person, where the identifying characteristic is selected by the user from a display; and

communicating with the person.